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Jailed as U.S. 'Spy,' Soviet Expels Him

MOSCOW (UPI)—An American tourist was arrested in Kharkov Sept. 8 and expelled from the country as a CIA agent after spending a night in jail, U.S. officials said today.

He was identified as Nicholas H. Riegg, 24, of Walnut Creek, Calif., a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

University records said Riegg was graduated in 1963 with a B.A. degree with a major in international relations, and studied the same year at the University of Taiwan.

The Soviet newspaper Trud (Labor) accused Riegg today of allegedly distributing propaganda and trying to collect information for the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The newspaper said Riegg "confessed" to criminal behavior during visits to the Soviet Union in September, 1964, and August and September, 1966.

A U.S. embassy spokesman cast doubt on the Soviet charges.

"It doesn't seem likely that if the Soviets had really captured a man who they were sure was a CIA agent that they would let him go just like that," he said.

Embassy officials said Riegg registered at the embassy in Moscow Sept. 1 and then disappeared until he showed up again in Bucharest Sept. 12.

He told American officials in the Romanian capital that he had been "entrapped" in Khar-



United Press International Photo
NICHOLAS H. RIEGG
His year book photo

kov, Sept. 8 while on a motor trip through the Ukraine and charged with trying to sell his clothes illegally.

Riegg said he was refused permission to telephone the American embassy after he was picked up and was detained over night.

The Embassy officials also denied Trud's charges that Riegg had met with Donald R. Lesh, embassy second secretary, during his stay in Moscow. Lesh was ordered expelled Sept. 14 by the Soviets for alleged activities incompatible with his diplomatic duties.